

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A offset determining system, upon a putting green having a topography of varying slope, for use by a golfer in hitting a golf ball from a maximum position toward a hole having a hole center, to suggest to the golfer a redirected putt line that varies by an offset distance transverse to and at the hole from a direct putt line which extends between the ball and the hole center, comprising:

a target having a target face having a target line extending thereon, the target for positioning adjacent the hole with the target line aligned with the direct putt line; and

- a measurement device having a housing having a top, a bottom, a pair of transverse sides, a rear, and a front, and positioning indicia for aligning the rear transverse to the direct putt line, the measurement device having a transverse inclinometer extending longitudinally between the transverse sides and substantially parallel to the bottom, the measurement device having a rangefinder for determining distance between the front and the target, the measurement device having a control unit for determining the offset distance from at least two measurement sets each having a distance to the target and a slope at that distance and a display for providing the offset distance to the user, wherein one of the measurement sets is acquired upon placing

the measurement device at the maximum position, and another of the measurement sets acquired upon placing the measurement device further toward the hole along the direct putt line.

5 2. The offset determining system as recited in claim 1, wherein the target has a pair of short sides and a pair of long sides, such that when acquiring the measurement sets, one of the short sides is positioned on the green such that the target line extends vertically behind the hole.

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3. The offset determining system as recited in claim 2, wherein the target face has a plurality of calibrated lines along at least one of the long sides, which indicate various distances from a center of said long side, such that said
15 long side is positioned upon the putting green transverse to the direct putt line after the offset distance is calculated, to help the golfer redirect the putt line by using the calibrated markings to redirect the putt line by said offset distance.

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4. The offset determining system as recited in claim 3, wherein the measurement device has a longitudinal inclinometer, extending longitudinally between the front and rear, such that each of the measurement sets includes and
25 longitudinal slope and a transverse slope.

5. The offset determining system as recited in claim 4,
wherein the measurement device has a display for visually
indicating the recommended offset distance and has selection
buttons for allowing the user to control functionality of the
5 measurement device.

6⁵/₈. The offset determining system as recited in claim ~~4~~⁵,
wherein the measurement device has an arched tunnel centered
between the transverse sides and extending longitudinally
10 from the front for positioning the golf ball within the
archway when the measurement device is at the maximum
position.

7⁶/₈. The offset determining system as recited in claim ~~5~~⁶,
15 wherein the selector buttons include a read button for
prompting the acquisition of a measurement set and a button
for prompting the calculation and display of the recommended
offset distance.

20 8⁷/₈. The offset determining system as recited in claim ~~6~~⁷,
wherein one of the short sides has a protrusion sized and
shaped for extending within the hole to allow the target to
be positioned upon the putting green with said short side
extending across the hole.

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8. The offset determining system as recited in claim⁸ 8, wherein the selector buttons include a data button for displaying the measurement sets that have been acquired.
- 5 ¹⁰9. The offset determining system as recited in claim⁹ 8, wherein the selector buttons include a mode button for selectively displaying the recommended offset distance in British and metric units.
- 10 ¹¹10. An offset determining method for use by a golfer on a putting green having a hole having a hole center, in putting a golf ball on the green toward the hole, where the golf ball is located at a maximum position, a direct putt line connects the ball with the hole center, an offset line extends
- 15 transverse to the direct putt line at the hole, and the putting green has a topography of varying slope, using a measurement target having a target face having a target line visible thereon, and using a measurement device having a housing having a bottom, a front, a rear, a pair of
- 20 transverse sides, a rangefinder at the rear, an inclinometer extending parallel to the bottom between the transverse sides, comprising the steps of:

(a) aligning the target line with the direct putt line

25 by positioning the target at the hole;

(b) positioning the measurement device at the maximum position by placing the bottom upon the putting green;

(c) acquiring a measurement data set at the maximum position by measuring the slope by the inclinometer and the distance to the target by the rangefinder;

(d) repositioning the measurement device along the putt line closer to the hole than the maximum position by placing the bottom upon the putting green;

(e) acquiring another measurement data set by measuring the slope of the putting green using the inclinometer and the distance to the target using the rangefinder;

(f) calculating a recommended offset distance by the device using the measurement data sets; and

(g) aiming the putt by the golfer at the hole, redirected by the recommended offset distance on the offset line.

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~~11~~. The offset determining method as recited in claim ¹¹~~10~~, wherein the measurement device has selector buttons, wherein steps (c), (e), and (f) further comprise pressing one of the selector buttons by the user.

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¹³~~12~~. The offset determining method as recited in claim ¹²~~11~~, further comprising repeating steps (d) and (e) to allow precise mathematical modeling of the topography along the direct putt line.

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¹⁴~~13~~. The offset determining method as recited in claim ¹³~~12~~, wherein the measurement device has both a transverse

inclinometer and a longitudinal inclinometer, both extending parallel to the bottom, and wherein steps (c) and (e) further comprise acquiring both transverse and longitudinal slopes.

- 5 ¹⁵~~14~~. The offset determining method as recited in claim ¹⁴~~13~~, wherein the target has a pair of short sides and a pair of long sides, the target line extending longitudinally parallel to the long sides, the target having a plurality of calibrated lines located along one of the long sides which
- 10 are spaced to indicate distances therealong; wherein the step of aligning the target line with the direct putt line further comprises positioning one of the short sides upon the putting green; and wherein step (g) of aiming the putt by the golfer at the hole:
- 15 is preceded by the step of positioning the target upon one of the long sides by rotating the target, and further comprises aiming the putt at the one of the calibrated lines on the target corresponding to the recommended offset distance.

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- ¹⁶~~15~~. The offset determining method as recited in claim ¹⁵~~14~~, wherein the measuring device has an arched tunnel extending upward from the bottom and rearwardly from the front, and wherein the step of positioning the measurement
- 25 device at the maximum position further comprises positioning the measurement device with the arched tunnel extending over the golf ball.

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~~16~~. The offset determining method as recited in claim ¹⁶~~15~~,
wherein the measurement device has a display, and wherein the
method as recited further comprises visually indicating the
5 recommended offset distance to the user with the display.